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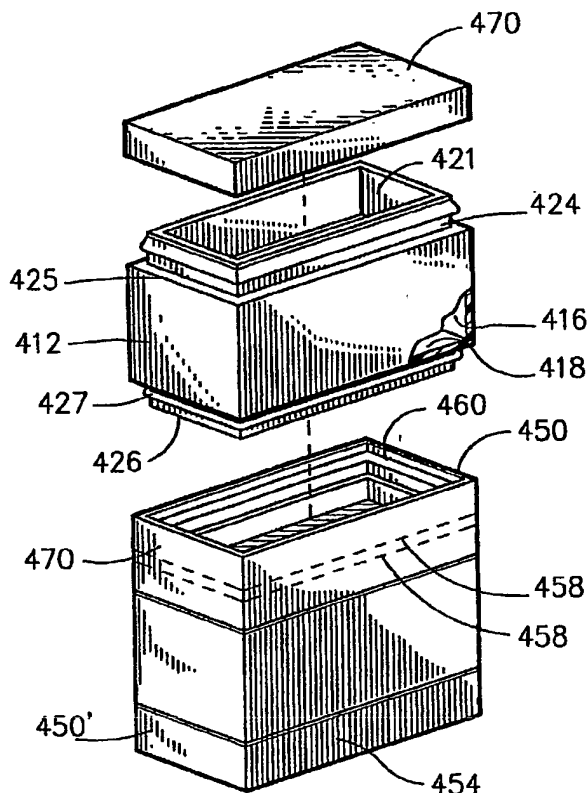
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(54) Title: INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD ESPECIALLY FOR PHARMACEUTICALS



(57) Abstract: An inventory control system for items such as pharmaceuticals employs a plurality of receptacles and a lock member to lock an upper receptacle to a lower receptacle together is a stacked array in a joined state to prevent access to items in the interior of the lower receptacle while allowing access to the upper receptacle. The lock member includes a portion that can be separated to release an upper receptacle from a lower receptacle to permit access to contents of the lower receptacle. The receptacles can mate with one another. The lock member can have teeth or ridges that engage teeth or ridges on the receptacles to prevent separation until a tear-away portion is removed. A method of inventory control thus allows storing a bulk quantity of items in selected sub-quantities in each of a plurality of receptacles to permit access only to a selected sub-quantity until exhausted.

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